

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bar code generating apparatus comprising:  
a specimen container holder which holds a  
container containing a specimen;

5 a holder conveyance device provided to convey the  
specimen container holder;

a sensor which senses information indicating that  
the holder conveyance device conveys the specimen  
container holder to a specific position and outputs the  
10 information;

a conveyance temporary stop mechanism which  
operates based on the information output from the  
sensor and temporarily stops conveyance of the specimen  
container holder;

15 a rotation control mechanism which rotates the  
specimen container holder, which is stopped temporarily  
by the conveyance temporary stop mechanism, on an axis  
of the holder;

an electronic camera which picks up an image of  
20 recording information on a surface of the specimen  
container held by the specimen container holder rotated  
by the rotation control mechanism; and

a bar-coding device which codes the recording  
information into a bar code based on data of the image  
25 picked up by the electronic camera.

2. The bar code generating apparatus according to  
claim 1, wherein the holder conveyance device includes

a belt conveyor mechanism.

3. The bar code generating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the conveyance temporary stop mechanism operates in response to an output of the sensor and inserts an operation rod in a forward area in a conveyance direction of the specimen container holder to thereby slip the specimen container holder on the belt and stop the specimen container holder in a specific position thereon.

4. The bar code generating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rotation control mechanism includes means for depressing an eccentric position of a top of the specimen container holder that slips and stops in the specific position on the belt to incline the specimen container holder and apply a rotating force to the specimen container holder in association with movement of the belt.

5. The bar code generating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a bar code label issuing and attaching device which issues a bar code label based on bar code information from the bar-coding device and attaches the bar code label to a given specimen container.

6. The bar code generating apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising a bar code label issuing and attaching device which issues a bar code label based on bar code information from the bar-coding

device and attaches the bar code label to a given specimen container.

5       7. The bar code generating apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising a bar code label issuing and attaching device which issues a bar code label based on bar code information from the bar-coding device and attaches the bar code label to a given specimen container.

10       8. The bar code generating apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a bar code label issuing and attaching device which issues a bar code label based on bar code information from the bar-coding device and attaches the bar code label to a given specimen container.